

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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P 210820Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2627

S E C R E T SINGAPORE 2164

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: MASS, MILI, SN

SUBJ: GOS REQUEST FOR MAP AND USAF PERSONNEL

1. BY SEPTELS, EMBASSY IS FORWARDING TEXTS OF TWO AIDE-MEMOIRES DATED APRIL 29 HANDED TO ACTING DATT (CAPTAIN GAMMON) BY PERMSEC FOR DEFENSE PANG TEE POW. ONE AIDE-MEMOIRE NOTES THAT THE SINGAPORE ARMED FORCES (SAF) HAS ALWAYS PAID ALL THE COSTS FOR TRAINING OF SAF PERSONNEL IN U.S. AND THAT SINGAPORE IS CURRENTLY THE ONLY SEA COUNTRY NOT INCLUDED UNDER MAP. NOTE REQUESTS THAT EXCEPT FOR THE A4S TRAINING PROGRAM, THE TRAINING OF SAF PERSONNEL NOW BE ASSISTED WHOLLY UNDER MAP.

2. THE OTHER AIDE-MEMOIRE REFERS TO "POLICY OF THE USG" NOT TO PROVIDE MILITARY PERSONNEL ON LOAN TO NON-MAP RECIPIENT COUNTRIES, AND REQUESTS THAT THE USG AGREE IN PRINCIPLE TO REVERSE ITS CURRENT POLICY AND MAKE AVAILABLE AMERICAN AIR FORCE PERSONNEL FOR LOAN SERVICE TO THE GOS. SPECIFICALLY, IT REQUESTS THAT THE USAF PROVIDE PERSONNEL TO FILL NINE POSITIONS IN THE RSAF INCLUDING THE DIRECTOR OF THE AIR STAFF WITH THE RANK OF BRIGADIER (TO BE FILLED BY AUGUST, 1975), THE HEAD OF THE AIR OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT (JANUARY 1977), THE HEAD OF THE FLYING OPERATIONS BRANCH (NOW VACANT) AND OTHER STAFF AND TRAINING OFFICERS. NOTE REFERS TO CONTINUING RSAF DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN AIR FORCE PERSONNEL, THE DIFFICULTY OF OBTAINING HIGH CALIBER AIR FORCE PERSONNEL FROM COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES AND THE POSSIBLE INTRODUCTION OF AMERICAN SUPERSONIC FIGHTER AND U.S. SAM SYSTEM AS JUSTIFICATION WHY USAF PERSONNEL

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ARE NEEDED FOR COMMAND STAFF AND TRAINING APPOINTMENTS IN

THE RSAF.

3. PANG TEE POW ADVISED CAPTAIN GAMMON THAT PRIME MINISTER HAD PRESENTED THESE AIDE-MEMOIRES DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO WASHINGTON, AND COMMENTED "EVEN IF HE DIDN'T I AM PRESENTING THEM TO YOU NOW". CAPTAIN GAMMON REPLIED THAT TEXT OF AIDE-MEMOIRES WOULD BE FORWARDED TO WASHINGTON AND WOULD REQUIRE CONSIDERABLE STUDY BEFORE REPLY COULD BE GIVEN. HE NOTED THAT THEY INVOLVED MANY DIFFICULT AND COMPLICATED CONSIDERATIONS.

4. REQUEST DEPARTMENT CONFIRM WHETHER AIDE-MEMOIRES WERE PRESENTED DURING LEE VISIT AND, IF SO, TO WHOM. NOTES OBVIOUSLY REFLECT MAJOR SHIFT IN GOS POLICY. EMBASSY IS ANALYZING IMPLICATIONS AND WILL FORWARD COMMENTS SOONEST. CRONK

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